

Band holiday concert packs post theater

The U.S. Continental Army Band's annual "Holiday Celebration Concert" drew a massive crowd to the post theater Saturday. The show featured musical guests Matt Ashford, pictured right — a.k.a. Jack Deveraux from the television soap "Days of Our Lives" — and Christina Saffran Ashford, pictured below, who has appeared in several top-rated Broadway productions and recently released a solo album. The duo performed a wide range of holiday favorites ranging from "Do You Hear What I Hear" to "Feliz Navidad." The show concluded with an audience sing-along led by the Ashford's and the Old Dominion University choir, also featured performers. TUSCAB's jazz band and pop music group "Crossfire" were also highlighted during the show.



Photos by Patrick Buffett



Photo left: Emma Ashford joins her dad on stage to sing "All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth." Matt Ashford followed her performance with a dramatic reading of the Francis P. Church editorial "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus," which first appeared in an 1897 edition of the New York Sun. Photo above: The U.S. Continental Army Band, under the direction of Maj. Andrew Esch, opens the concert with an intrumental version of "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." Also pictured at the back of the stage is the Old Dominion University Choir, who later sang "Deck the Halls" under the direction of Dr. Nancy Kirkland Klein.

Monroe kicks off season with holiday tree event

More than 100 Fort Monroe community members gathered at Cannon Park near post headquarters Dec. 2 for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. A quintet from The U.S. Continental Army Band, which included trumpet player Sgt. Benjamin Fairfield, pictured right, opened the event with seasonal music. Two local Girl Scouts helped Col. Perry D. Allmendinger, garrison commander, flip a switch and light the post tree. The ceremony concluded with a visit from Santa Claus, who posed for photos with children in the Fitness Center.

